

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8-25 are pending; Claims 6, 14, and 17-24 are amended; and no claims are newly added or canceled herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 23 was objected to; Claims 17-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 6 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Igaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,409,746, hereafter Igaki); Claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui (U.S. Pat. No. 5,879,378); Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Kamiyama (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,953); Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Betrabet et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,618,281, hereafter Betrabet); Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable in view of Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Hoffman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,190,389, hereafter Hoffman); Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Effing et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,193,996, hereafter Effing); Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Basedow et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,198,017, hereafter Basedow); Claims 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Tsutsumi (U.S. Pat. No. 6,841,716); Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Igaki in view of Usui and further in view of Kuratomi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,747,841, hereafter Kuratomi); and Claim 22 was indicated as allowable.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that Claim 22 contains allowable subject matter.

With respect to the objection to Claim 23, the noted informality has been addressed herewith. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, that rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 17-24 have been amended herewith to address the informalities noted in the outstanding Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 6 has been amended herewith to recite that the steam generating composition is disposed in pore-like structures of the paper sheet and the adhesive layer includes at least one opening through which the steam is discharged. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, at least at page 7 of the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

Applicants have filed herewith a certified English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-252326, which was filed August 23, 2000. Because the filing date of the priority application for the above-identified application is prior to the U.S. filing date (October 6, 2000) of Igaki, it is respectfully submitted that Igaki may no longer be applied as prior art against the pending application. It is therefore respectfully requested that the outstanding rejections of Claims 6 and 8-25 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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